THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) yes, Sir. The administrative approval of Government of India for continuance of the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Development of Freshwater Aquaculture" for the year 2001-2002 has been issued to the Government of Madhya Pradesh on 15.6.2001.

(b) For the Central share of Rs. 151.826 lakh which was available with the State Government as on 1-4-2001 towards unspent balance, revalidation sanction was issued in May, 2001 to Govt. of Madhya Pradesh.

Invention of sowing equipment

311. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have invented any tractor without engine, to be driven by bullocks rather than diesel to be made available to farmers at cheaper rates, in order to provide state-of-the-art sowing plants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) A bullock drawn multi purpose tool bar has been developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and other organizations. This equipment can be used for ploughing, harrowing, cultivation, ridging, sowing and transportation.

Improving the agricultural sector

†312. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a major stress was given by government in the budget speech 2002-2003 on improvement of the agro-sector;

(b) if so, the effective measures taken by Government in this regard, so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.